

Thomas Feeney

Veteran Volunteer

Total Volunteer Hours: 3,547

Staff Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, 1953-1957
Electronic Recon and Radio Operator

Personal Background

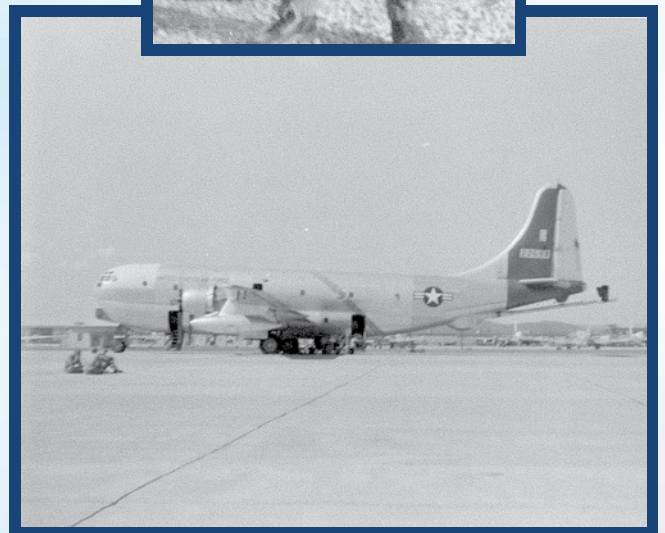
Mr. Feeney was born in Erie, PA. He was married for 31 years to the love of his life until her passing ten years ago. He inherited six children, has several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Tom completed boot camp at Sampson Air Force Base in Geneva, NY, went to Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS for training and then was stationed at Biggs Air Force Base in El Paso, TX. He flew to many military destinations such as London, Tokyo, Philippines, Okinawa, Turkey, and North Africa.

Tom worked at Zurn Industries and American Meter in the Accounting department. He retired from Modern Industries as the Vice President after years in the budget/accounting fields.

He was the Chairman of Finance Council for Blessed Sacrament and St. Boniface Church and was also the District Governor of Lions and currently the Secretary Treasurer of Lions Eye Bank.

Tom enjoys working alongside the staff in the Pharmacy and thinks that they are out of this world and believes that they are sincerely appreciative of what he does.



George Nelson

Veteran Volunteer

Total Volunteer Hours: 5,364.30

Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps
Vietnam Service 1969 – 1971
Artillery

Medals | Honors

- Vietnam Service Medal
- Navy Commendation Medal for meritorious service while serving as a Section Chief with the 107mm Mortar Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division

Personal Background

Born in Youngsville, PA, George is married and has three children and four grandchildren.

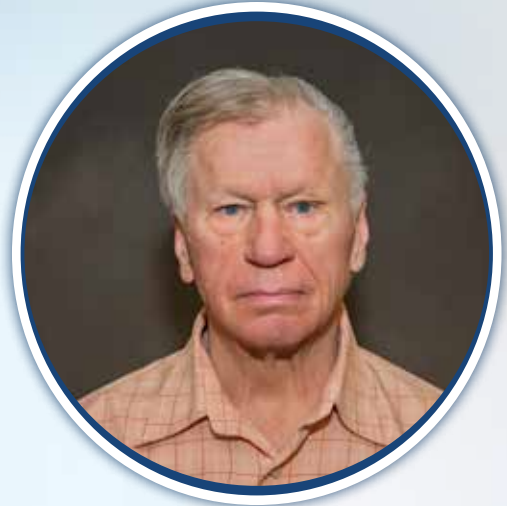
Mr. Nelson went to boot camp at Paris Island, SC in August of 1969, to Camp Lejeune for Infantry training, and artillery training at Camp Pendleton. He was then off to Vietnam.

He worked at National Forge in Warren, PA for 35 years as a CNC programmer. Additionally, as a farmer for many years, Mr. Nelson annually sold nearly 2,500 bales of hay. He recently sold all his equipment to purchase a Harley to enjoy with his wife.

As a volunteer driver, Mr. Nelson shuttles Veterans locally in Warren, PA. He also travels to Erie and Pittsburgh, PA; Buffalo and Jamestown, NY; and other regions throughout New York state.

Inspiration for Volunteering

Mr. Nelson wanted to give something back to the Veterans.



William E. Schaaf, Sr.

Veteran Volunteer

Total Volunteer Hours: 2,936.50

Captain, U.S. Marine Corps, 1965-68 and 1970-72
Motor Transport and Engineer

Medals | Honors

- Navy Commendation Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal

Personal Background

Mr. Schaaf is an Erie native and graduate of Cathedral Prep. He was attending Gannon University when called upon for active duty. He depolyed to Southeast Asia and then spent 2 years at Camp LeJeune, NC. Mr. Schaaf worked as an engineer with Packard Electric in Warren, Ohio for 2 years. He volunteered to return to active duty, where he was retrained as an engineer. Once home, he completed his master's degree in Business from Gannon University, went on to sell real estate, and become a successful broker and appraiser.



Inspiration for Volunteering (as written by Bill)

A friend, Gary Weaver, said the VA needs someone to drive the 30' wheelchair buses. I applied but started with local volunteer DAV driving. I have found it very rewarding to help Veterans. We have all served. They responded to me during active duty and now I can give back to them. The Erie VA has a great reputation and I am proud to be a part of the organization. My Thursday Volunteer DAV driver day is always an adventure in stories and camaraderie.



Charles Castelluccio

Veteran Volunteer

Total Volunteer Hours: 1,960.30

2nd Class Petty Officer E5, U.S. Navy, 1969 – 1973

Boot camp at Great Lakes

First duty aboard The Destroyer Brain DD 630

After decommissioning, was assigned to Light Cruiser
Providence CLG 6

Medals | Honors

- Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon
- National Defense Service Medal
- Antarctica Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars
- Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation
- Gallantry Cross Medal Color with Palm
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device

Personal Background

Mr. Castelluccio volunteered for Vietnam, completed his survival weapons training with the Marines, and arrived in Saigon in May of 1970. He received orders for the YRBM 21 and was stationed on the Mekong River, 4 miles south of Cambodia. Mr. Castelluccio arrived back in the States in April of 1971, where was stationed at the Navy Cargo Handling and Port Group near Williamsburg, Virginia. He also served temporary deployments in Naples, Italy; Subic Bay, Philippines; and the South Pole for Operation Deep Freeze.

A retired railroad worker, Mr. Castelluccio is a 32-year member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), a 15-year member of the American Legion, and has served as Post, District, and State Chaplain for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Pennsylvania. He was selected as Pennsylvania VFW Chaplain of the Year in 2018-2019. Mr Castelluccio is also a 22-year member of the Honor Guard, an 18-year Ordained Pastor, and has been contributing to *The Veterans Corner* newspaper column as an Editor for 18 years.

In addition to his volunteer driving duties at the Erie VA Medical Center, Mr. Castelluccio acts as the local Representative for the VFW on their VAVS Committee.



A Glimpse of Charlie (as written by Karen O'Neal)

In October 2021, I, Karen O'Neal (Chief, Voluntary Service), was contacted by our Chief, Social Work Service regarding a young Veteran patient we lost to suicide early that morning. This Veteran's mother, a California resident, did not have the resources available to purchase a plane ticket to return to Erie and attend her son's funeral. Due to the immediate, urgent need of the ticket purchase, my efforts to secure the money through devoted donors proved unsuccessful.

I then reached out to Mr. Castelluccio and explained the situation. Charlie's exact words were, "I'll get her back here – one way or the other". After connecting with the Chief, Social Work Service and the Veteran's mother, Charlie went to a AAA office and purchased a round-trip plane ticket with his personal funds.

Charlie also participated in the Honor Guard at this Veteran's funeral and presented the American flag to his mother.

